

Expository  
Text

# EXTREME ANIMALS

BY JANE BUXTON



Mc  
Graw  
Hill

PAIRED  
READ

Hare and the Water

## STRATEGIES & SKILLS

### Comprehension

**Strategy:** Summarize

**Skill:** Main Idea and Key Details

### Vocabulary Strategy

Prefixes

### Vocabulary

camouflaged, dribbled,  
extraordinary, poisonous,  
pounces, predators, prey,  
vibrations

### Content Standards

**Science**

Life Science

Word Count: 1,044\*\*

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\*\*The total word count is based on words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in captions, labels, diagrams, charts, and sidebars are not included.



**Essential Question**

What helps an animal survive?

**EXTREME ANIMALS**  
BY JANE BUXTON



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# INTRODUCTION



There are many kinds of **environments** on Earth. There are hot deserts and oceans, rivers, and lakes. There are grassy plains and rain forests.

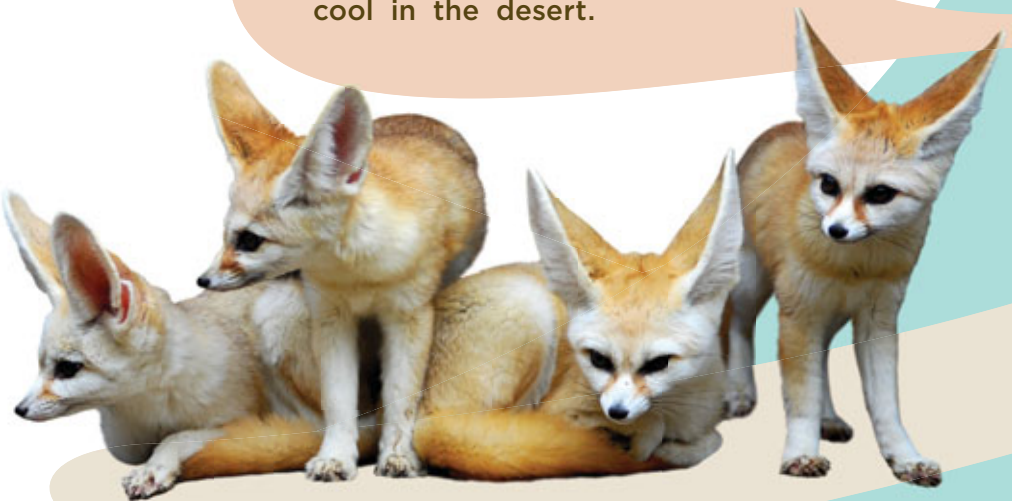
Animals can live in all of these environments because they have adaptations. An adaptation is a change that an animal has made over time to survive.

Some adaptations help animals find food. Some help them stay safe from **predators** that hunt them.

Animals can have physical adaptations. Some animals have thick fur to keep them warm. Other animals have large ears to listen for **prey**, or the animals they hunt for food. They can also hear an enemy before it pounces.

Some adaptations are so extraordinary you would never think of them!

The big ears of the fennec fox help it stay cool in the desert.



## CHAPTER 1 **SURVIVING IN THE DESERT AND THE RAIN FOREST**

A desert is a tough place for animals to live. Some have strange ways of surviving.

The Texas horned lizard squirts blood from its eyes when a predator gets too close. It also puffs up its body. This makes it look too big for its enemy to eat.



A horned lizard's sharp spines protect it from being eaten.

The Texas horned lizard is hard to see in the desert.

Javelinas live in groups to stay safe.

The javelina (*hah-ve-LEE-nah*) also lives in the desert. This small, smelly animal looks like a pig.

If it sees a predator, the javelina makes a clattering noise. It raises the hairs on its back so it looks bigger. It also has a strong odor, or smell, to warn other javelinas of danger.



In the rain forest, it is useful for animals to be able to climb trees. This lets an animal get away from predators.


The sloth lives mostly in the treetops. It has strong, curved claws. It uses them to climb and hang upside down from trees.

The sloth moves slowly so that predators don't see it. Green algae grows in its fur. This helps the sloth hide.



Sloths hang upside down 24 hours a day.



A close-up photograph of an aye-aye, a primate with long, thin fingers and large, bright yellow eyes, looking directly at the camera from a dark, leafy environment.

The aye-aye sees well at night with its big, round eyes.

Frans Lanting/CORBIS

The aye-aye lives in Madagascar, near Africa. It hunts beetle larvae, which live inside rotting wood. The aye-aye makes a hole in the wood with its sharp teeth. Then it pulls out the larvae with a long finger.

The aye-aye is **endangered**. It may become **extinct**. People have hunted it. A lot of the forest where it lives has been cut down. There are laws now to keep people from hunting aye-ayes.

#### STOP AND CHECK

What adaptations help animals live in the desert and the rain forest?

## CHAPTER 2

# WATERY ENVIRONMENTS

Some **mammals** have adaptations to live in water. The Florida manatee has a smooth body. It has a strong tail and two front flippers to help it swim. A layer of fat under its skin keeps it warm.

A manatee has a special top lip. It can use its lip to grab onto the plants it eats.

Manatees eat seagrass.

Jim Reid/USFWS



The duck-billed platypus has webbed feet and a bill. It looks like a duck, but it's a mammal! The platypus lays eggs. When they hatch, the young platypuses drink milk from their mother.

The duck-billed platypus lives in streams or rivers in Australia. It swims with its nostrils, ears, and eyes closed. When it feels the vibrations, or movements of small animals, it catches them with its bill. The male platypus has poisonous spikes on its legs to protect it from predators.



## *A Trick Animal*

When scientists first saw a duck-billed platypus, they thought it was a trick. They thought someone had put a duck's bill onto the body of a beaver.

Amphibians live in the water and on land. They breathe through their skin in the water. They breathe through their lungs on land. Frogs, toads, and salamanders are amphibians.

The Surinam toad lives in ponds and swamps in South America. A female toad lays her eggs. Then the eggs sink into the skin on her back.

The eggs hatch and the tiny toads grow. They climb out of their mother's back when they are around two months old. They swim away. This adaptation keeps the eggs and babies safe from predators.

**Baby Surinam toads will hatch from this mother's back.**



The Chinese giant salamander is also an amphibian. It is the largest amphibian in the world. It grows nearly 6 feet long.

This salamander lives mostly in the water. It has extra skin, which helps it stay in the water for a long time.

The Chinese giant salamander can't see very well. It catches prey by smelling or feeling movement in the water.



**STOP AND CHECK**

What are some of the ways animals live in or near water?

## CHAPTER 3 WEIRD CREATURES OF THE DEEP

The deep ocean is very dark, and the water pressure is strong there. It's hard for creatures to live in this place.

The bottom of the cookie cutter shark's body glows. Fish below can't see the shark because it's camouflaged against the light from above.

There's a small dark patch on the cookie cutter's jaw. Other fish often think this dark patch is a small fish. They swim closer, and the shark attacks.



The cookie cutter shark has very sharp teeth.

The blobfish lives in deep water near Australia. Not many fish can live in such deep water. The blobfish has no muscle, so it can't move itself. It is able to float because it is lighter than the water. It waits for food to drift to it.

## *Accidental Catch*



From the front, a blobfish looks like a human face.

Unfortunately, some blobfish are caught in fishing nets by mistake. They aren't good to eat, but they die anyway. Some people are worried that the blobfish will become extinct.

Animals are able to survive in many different environments. But they do need a healthy habitat to survive. People can change an animal's habitat by polluting the water or cutting down trees. People also hunt animals.

People work hard to protect wild animals and their habitats. We can all help to protect our planet and its amazing animals.

**STOP AND CHECK**

What things threaten an animal's habitat?

Animals like the jaguar are endangered.





# Respond to Reading

## Summarize

Use details from *Extreme Animals* to summarize how animals have adapted to survive. Use your graphic organizer to help you.

Main Idea
Detail
Detail
Detail

## Text Evidence

1. How do you know that *Extreme Animals* is an expository text? **GENRE**
2. Reread the first paragraph on page 4. Summarize the main idea and key details.  
**MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS**
3. What is the meaning of the word *unfortunately* on page 13? Use what you know about prefixes to help you figure it out.  
**PREFIXES**
4. Write about how creatures in the deep ocean survive. Make sure you include details from the text in your answer. **WRITE ABOUT READING**

## Compare Texts

Read about how some animals worked together to survive.

# HARE AND THE WATER

The African sun had dried the grass. The dry ground was covered in cracks.

“Giraffe,” Hare said, “where can I get some water?”

“There is no water. There is a drought,” said Giraffe.

“Yes,” said Hare. “But there must be water somewhere.”

“Let’s look together,” said Giraffe.

Soon they met Antelope. “Water,” he said weakly.

“Come with us!” said Hare.

Soon they met Lion and Elephant. Lion and Elephant came to search for water, too.

“Just follow me,” said Hare.

“Excuse me!” said Tortoise. She pushed through the animals’ legs.

Tortoise turned to everyone. “There’s a dry waterhole ahead. We can all dig for water.”

They got to the dry waterhole. The animals began digging. Soon Hare lay down in the shade. He went to sleep.



“Hare is so lazy!” said Lion.

“Let’s make *him* work!” said Antelope.

The others woke Hare and made him dig.

At first, Hare worked hard. Then he grew tired and slowed down.

“We’ll never find any water. Come on, everyone!” Tortoise said.

The animals kept on digging. Soon they found water. As Hare drank, water dribbled down his chin.

“Working together is easier and faster than working alone,” said Hare.

“Yes, Hare!” said Tortoise. “You finally figured it out!”



Illustration: Bob Bruggen



## Make Connections

How do the animals find water?

### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What things do animals need to survive? Use examples from *Extreme Animals* and *Hare and the Water* in your answer. **TEXT TO TEXT**

# Glossary

**endangered** (*in-DAYN-jurd*) at risk of dying out (**page 7**)

**environments** (*in-VIGH-ruhn-muhnts*) the surroundings in which people or animals live (**page 2**)

**extinct** (*ik-STINGKT*) no longer living (**page 7**)

**mammals** (*MA-muhls*) warm-blooded animals that feed their young with milk (**page 8**)

**predators** (*PRE-duh-tuhrz*) animals that hunt other animals for food (**page 2**)

**prey** (*pray*) animals that are hunted for food (**page 3**)

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# Focus on Science

**Purpose** To show how adaptations help an animal survive

## Procedure

**Step 1** With a partner, pick a habitat, such as the desert or ocean, and invent a new animal that lives there.

.....

**Step 2** What are your animal's adaptations? How does it stay safe from predators? How does it find food?

.....

**Step 3** Draw a picture of your animal. Add labels that show its adaptations.

.....

**Step 4** Give your animal a name. Present your animal to the class. Explain where it lives and why it needs each adaptation.

**Conclusion** What have you learned about the ways different animals survive? Different environments have different dangers, and each animal has had to find ways to survive.

## Literature Circles

### Nonfiction

# Thinkmark

### **The Topic**

What is *Extreme Animals* mostly about?

### **Text Structure**

How does the author organize the information in *Extreme Animals*?

### **Vocabulary**

What are the key words in this text that relate to the topic?

### **Conclusions**

What conclusions can you make about animal adaptations?

### **Make Connections**

What other animal adaptations do you know about?